

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

I have cable TV and pay a premium price to get x number of channels. I regularly record programs, movies on my VCR and watch them at my convenience. How could anything that blocks copying not interfere with legitimate copying for personal use? There is no evidence that a broadcast flag system will work the way proponents say.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? One way I use my DVD player is to put photos on a CD-ROM or RW disk and view it on my TV. If my DVD player is looking for a flag, it would not work. What if I want to send a video clip over the internet?

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

I have a VCR that is 20 years old and works great, I plan to keep it as long a possible. I think that adding another standard to equipment will make old equipment incompatible and obsolete which would be unfair to the general public. Or we would probably need to buy more equipment to make our old equipment compatible.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Most likely would. The trend is to make consumer electronics smaller. Extra circuitry will hamper that effort.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

It would increase the cost of the equipment itself which we the consumer will have to pay and introduce more complexity to the system which will introduce another point of failure to any equipment which would be even more wasteful. It would increase the volume of junk in our landfills.

Other Comments:

I feel the implications of such a system could have a negative impact to my right to free speech and my freedom to exchanging personal information digitally.